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CIA Report Sees Lag In Soviet Economy

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WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union's economy faces a sluggish future despite a modest upturn during the last two years, the Central Intelligence Agency forecasts.

The CIA points to various systemic problems and cites the absence of a "clear-cut economic strategy" by General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko. The CIA predicts that the recent Soviet recovery will be hampered by "technological backwardness," transportation bottlenecks and a heavy dependence on certain types of imports.

Q The CIA conclusions, made public by Sen. William Proxmire (D., Wis.), are based on previously classified testimony given before the Joint Economic Committee last November. The report concludes that economic problems will limit the military growth Moscow can afford in coming years.

The CIA says one of the Soviets' most pressing needs will be imported equipment and technological know-how to develop oil and natural-gas reserves in Siberia and along the Arctic coast.

The CIA also said the Soviet Union will continue to devote huge resources to its agricultural programs, and possibly crimp investment in machine-building and transportation. The CIA found that Soviet output of goods and services rose 3.2% after inflation in 1983, after rising 2.1% in 1981 and 1982.

The CIA also predicted that because of the Soviet Union's economic problems, and reluctance to increase imports from the West, Eastern European countries may be pressured to boost exports to Russia.